

Animal Care & Control

June 2003

Volume 6, Issue 5

Tale of Two Cities

By Ed Boks

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Something exciting is happening in the world of animal welfare. AC&C has been asked to start exporting its innovative, progressive, life saving animal care and control programs to New York City's Center of Animal Care and Control (CACC).

New York's animal care and control program has been struggling for many years and is facing many of the same obstacles AC&C faced several years ago. They are asking us for help in replicating our successful programs in their community.

Starting on or about July 1, 2003, I will spend two weeks each month in New York, and two weeks here in Maricopa. I will be doing this for several months.

I will serve as Acting Director of the CACC for the next six months to help bring their organization to the same level of excellence that the AC&C team has achieved in Maricopa County.

I will continue to serve as Director of AC&C during this same time. A relationship with New York will benefit all parties involved, especially the animals in our two communities.

This collaboration will serve at least three strategic purposes:

- 1) It will help the professional experience and growth of the entire AC&C Executive Team, and consequently the entire organization.
- 2) It will help New York City's animal care and control to

become dramatically more humane and effective.

- 3) It will significantly promote and publicize to the public, corporations and other municipal governments across the United States the reputation of Maricopa County's AC&C, while at the same time drawing national attention to our "no-kill" initiative.

Some may ask, "how will Ed's absence affect AC&C's achieving no-kill?" Let me assure you, that not only I, but David Smith, Maricopa County Manager; Dr. Jonathan Weisbuch, Maricopa County's Chief Medical Officer; and the County's Board of Supervisors are fully committed to and vested in transforming Maricopa County into the first major metropolitan no-kill region in the United States.

I have worked tirelessly for over 18 years to bring this goal within reach and I will do nothing to jeopardize our achieving it now.

You have my commitment that I will not let my working with New York City interfere with my ability to lead AC&C through its next steps and into the future.

I am confident in the skills and talents of the AC&C team. Under the combined leadership of **Al Aguinaga**, Shelter Operations Director; **Julie Bank**, Director of Public Programs; **Martha Bern**, Director of Field Operations; **Nancy Harris**, Controller; **Mary Martin**, Director of Shelter Medicine; and **Karen Dickey**



my assistant AC&C will always be in good hands.

During the time I am in New York, I will be in electronic contact with key County systems (e-mail, agenda central, electronic files and so forth). I will respond to AC&C issues on a timely basis, and will be reachable for immediate, essential AC&C needs by pager.

During the time I am in Phoenix, I will work the hours necessary to ensure implementation and maintenance of the plans and strategies we have developed to keep Maricopa County's animal control program the national model it has become while aggressively advancing it toward "no-kill".

AC&C has become a shining light. A wise man once said that you should never place your light under a bushel basket but that you should put it on top of a hill for all to see.

New York City is that hill. Maricopa County's AC&C programs will be nationally recognized as we achieve the same results in New York we have achieved here.

It is my hope that all our employees, friends, partners, volunteers, and the community at large will continue to support us as we take AC&C to the next level. ♦

"Example is not the main thing influencing others. It is the only thing."
Albert Schweitzer

Hot Weather Tips That Saves Lives!

Hundreds of Pets Die Each Year Due To Being Left In Cars And Problems Related To The Heat.

AC&C Warns Pet Guardians To Protect Their Pets During The Hot Summer Months.

Never leave your pet in a parked car. An animal's body temperature can rise in just seconds causing heat related problems or death.

Normal body temperature for dogs and cats is 101-103 degrees!

- NEVER leave your pet in a parked car. An animal's body temperature can rise in just seconds causing heat related problems. Normal body temperature for dogs and cats is 101-103 degrees.
- Overheating (heat prostration) can kill an animal. Never leave an animal alone in a vehicle, since even with the windows open, your vehicle can quickly become a furnace. Parking in shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day. When traveling, carry a gallon thermos filled with fresh, cold water.
- Walk your pet on cooler surfaces to protect his feet from burning. If you can't hold your hand long on the surface, it's probably too hot for your pet as well.
- Don't force your animal to exercise after a meal in hot weather. Always exercise him in the cool of the early morning or evening.
- Keep walks to a minimum. He is much closer to the hot asphalt and his body can heat up quickly.
- Always provide plenty of adequate shade for an animal staying outside the house at all times during the day. A properly constructed dog house serves best.
- Please be sensitive to old and overweight animals in hot weather. Snub-nosed dogs especially (bulldogs, Pekingese, Boston terriers, Lhasa apsos and shih tzus) and those with heart or lung disease should be kept indoors in air-conditioning as much as possible. These animals have a difficult time regulating their body temperature.
- Keep a current license and identification tag on your dog or cat and consider microchipping as a means of permanent identification.
- Be alert for coolant leaking from your vehicle. Animals are attracted to the sweet taste of coolant and ingesting just a small amount can cause an animal's death. Consider using animal-friendly products that use propylene glycol rather than those containing ethylene glycol.
- A clean coat can help to prevent summer skin problems, so keep your dog or cat well groomed. Consult with your groomer or veterinarian to determine whether your pet would be more comfortable with a shorter haircut for the summer. If he has a heavy coat, shaving your dog's hair to a 1-inch length will help prevent overheating. Don't shave a dog's hair down to the skin; this robs him of protection from the sun. A cat should be brushed frequently to keep his coat tangle-free.
- If your pet shows signs of heat distress, cool him down slowly with a cool rag. Do not submerge him in water. Take your dog immediately to a veterinarian for follow up care.
- Take your companion animal to the veterinarian for a spring or early summer checkup, including a test for heartworm. Have the doctor recommend a safe, effective flea and tick control program.
- Provide fresh water every day in a tip-proof container. ♦



no more homeless pets

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary



To Feature Ed Boks on on-line forum

Each week Best Friends Animal Sanctuary hosts an online conversation with leaders of the **No More Homeless Pets** movement.

Moderated by **Best Friends**, this forum provides on-going discussion and information for people working to create a time in their communities when no homeless, unwanted animals are being destroyed in shelters,

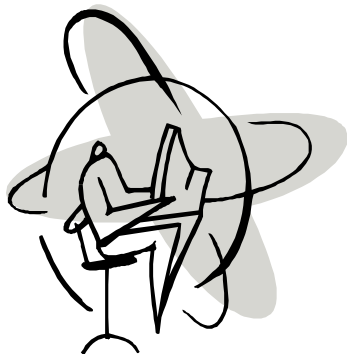
and when every healthy dog or cat can be guaranteed a good life in a caring environment.

Ed is scheduled to be featured on the Forum August 11th through the 15th. Ed will be discussing why and how animal control should be taking a leadership role in the no-kill movement, and will share many of AC&C's innovative policies, procedures, and programs that can help other

communities reach the no-kill goal.

For more information on how to participate on the Forum go to: <http://www.bestfriends.org/nmhp/forum.html>

Once there, you can review both Ed and **Mary Martin's** contribution thus far to this important national discussion by going to **"Previous Speakers and Topics."** ♦



Bix Fix Goes on the Road!

By Mary Martin, Director of Shelter Medicine

AC&C is pleased to announce the arrival of our "Neuter Scooter" mobile surgical unit and the expansion of our already successful "Big Fix" program. This vehicle is made possible thanks to a very generous grant from **PETsMART Charities!**

Pet overpopulation is a costly community problem. For many citizens, the high cost of veterinary care is out of reach. As a result pets breed indiscriminately, roam our streets, and are a burden on our limited resources.

AC&C has offered low cost spay neuter services to pets belonging to needy families for over two years, with dramatic results. The number of animals rescued last calendar year was at an all time low, 57,000 animals compared to 62,000 the year before. Our community's pet euthanasia rate dropped from 12 pets per 1000 to 9 during this same time proving spay/neuter programs work!

However, despite this success, many needy citizens are unable to bring their pets to us because they lack transportation. Our "Neuter Scooter" will enable us to bring these critical services to all our cities and towns.

Some of the benefits of our mobile **Big Fix** program include helping our community's most needy citizens, ending the costly, vicious cycle of helplessly watching unwanted dogs and cats being born into the world, decreasing the number of animals roaming community streets, and increasing the health and safety of the pets and people in your community.

Our "Neuter Scooter" will be available to come to your community starting August 1, 2003. AC&C will offer spay and neuter services for a flat fee of \$30 for each dog or cat regardless of size. Vaccinations and licensing will also be

available.

AC&C is hoping municipalities will want to subsidize the costs associated with this program because the cost of not providing this service is far more expensive than the spay/neuter surgery.

In fact, a study commissioned by the Minnesota State Legislature found that every one-dollar invested in spay/neuter programs saved \$20 in animal control costs over 10 years.

It is my hope the entire community will be as enthusiastic as we are to bring these services to your citizens.

Becoming part of the **Big Fix** mobile program solution will

help us put an end to the needless death of unwanted pets in Maricopa County. If you would like to help the **Big Fix** with a donation or by volunteering, please contact Julie Bank, 602-506-3471 or jbank@mail.maricopa.gov

Thank You! ♦



In addition to funding the Neuter Scooter, PETsMART Charities also granted AC&C funding for two pet transport vehicles.

PETsMART Charities has placed over 1 million pets through its adoption programs and grants!



Satisfaction
Lies in the effort,
Not in the
attainment.
Full effort
Is Full Victory
Mahatma Gandhi



Become a friend of the animals by becoming a Friend of Animal Care & Control (FACCs). If you would like more information on FACCs, call 602-840-2843, or e-mail: FACCs1@aol.com, or write to FACCs P.O. Box 80739, Phoenix, AZ 85060-0739



Lots of Mobile Adoptions in June

- June 7 — **PETCO** 9480 W. Northern, 11 a.m.— 3 p.m.
- June 8 — **PETsMART** Camelback and 20th St. 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
- June 14 — **Cricket Communications Store** Town and County Mall 20th Street and Camelback — 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.
- June 15 — **PETsMART** 7th St. and Bell — 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.
- June 22 — **Changing Hands Bookstore**-6428 S. McClintock — 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
- June 23 — **PETsMART** 67th Avenue and Peoria — 4 p.m.—8 p.m.
- June 28 — **PETsMART** 73rd Avenue and Bell —10 a.m.—2 p.m.
- June 29 — **PETCO** 9480 W. Northern, 11 a.m.— 3 p.m.
- July 5 — **Fibber Magee's**, the exciting new hot spot at 1989 West Elliot Road, Chandler, on the south east corner of Elliot and Dobson: Come celebrate the **Best of Show** event with the crew at **Fibber Magee's**, the Pet Mobile will be on hand, fun events, raffles, great food and drink, and live band - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. ♦



Failure is
unimportant.
It takes courage
to make a fool
of yourself.
Charlie Chaplin

Don't worry about
people stealing your
ideas. If your ideas
are any good, you'll
have to ram them
down people's
throats.
Howard Aiken



Call 602-506-3471 if you would like to schedule the Petmobile for your event.

Changing Hands Host *Harry Potter* Event



The long-anticipated *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, the fifth book in J.K. Rowling's popular kids' series, hits the streets **June 21st**.

To celebrate the release of *Harry Potter V*, staff at **Changing Hands Bookstore**, 6428 S. McClintock will host two days of fun, beginning the evening of **Friday, June 20 from 10 p.m. until after 1 a.m.** and **Satur-**

day, June 21 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Five dollars worth of books from each purchase of the new *Harry Potter* book can be donated to *Friends of Animal Care and Control*, a group of volunteers working with Maricopa County to prevent unnecessary euthanasia of animals and pets in the community.

Sunday, June 22, the Maricopa County Animal Care & Control Scratch & Sniff Petmobile will be outside the store from **11 a.m to 4 p.m.** with the *Friends of Animal Care and Control* non-profit group. The Petmobile is a self-contained adoption vehicle that features dogs and cats available for adoption. ♦



Afraid of Long-Term Commitment? You're just who we're looking for!

Looking for love, but reluctant to commit? We need you! Animal Care & Control's Foster Home Program is looking for a few good volunteers to care for kittens and puppies until they are old enough to be adopted, to nurture sick adult animals back to health, or to provide socialization and training. If you are interested in help AC&C save lives, call **506-PETS**. ♦

June is Adopt-A-Cat Month

The annual summer "kitten season" is always dreaded by employees and volunteers at animal shelters. The thousands of kittens born during late spring and early summer generally leave their mothers when they are between eight and twelve weeks old.

Others come to us too young, leaving us scrambling for foster homes. That makes June the prime time for huge numbers of kittens to change hands and

hundreds of adolescent and adult cats to be discarded "in exchange" for cuter, fluffier kittens. Everyone loves kittens -- it's almost impossible not to -- but summertime brings the feline overpopulation problem into sharp focus.

The sheer numbers of cats and kittens -- especially those who are unwanted and wandering -- have led directly to the low value we place on individual animals and, therefore, on the species in general. How can a society be taught to value something when "you can always get another"? The endless supply of cats and kittens available makes it too easy to simply discard those who are no longer cute or become inconvenient.

Society has always valued most highly those things (and people) that are most rare or unusual. Society has always misused and mistreated those things (and people) that are most plentiful

By Kit Jenkins

or "common". Therefore, abuse and neglect are a **DIRECT** result of pet overpopulation. Treating cats and kittens as a disposable commodity is certainly an abusive cycle.

If the time is right for you to add to your family, adopt a cat this summer -- AC&C features June as **MEOWAPALOOZA MONTH**, with all feline adoptions reduced to \$35 (half price). If you already have feline family members, have them spayed or neutered. Contact AC&C **BIG FIX** Program at (602) 506-PETS to learn about low-cost sterilization options and other ways to help stop pet overpopulation. Please spread the word! Show the rest of the world how to cherish what we value most. ♦

Upcoming Big Fix Event made possible by Animal Defense League of Arizona

Big Fix Spay Day at the West Side: AC&C, with a generous grant from Animal Defense League of Arizona (ADLA), has added an additional Big Fix Spay Day for Needy Families to our calendar.

The first 80 animals that come to the AC&C West Valley Animal Care Center (2323 S. 35th Ave) on **June 21st at 6:00 a.m.** will be spayed or neutered at no charge. ♦



Christmas in July

Come celebrate Christmas in July on **July 26th** at AC&C's Pet Adoption Center located at 5231 N. 35th Ave. AC&C will have snow, Santa, and lots of special presents on hand in the form of fuzzy animals looking for homes. Fun for the whole family. ♦



Come see Santa at the Pet Adoption Center For our Christmas in July Adoptathon



AC&C receives Virginia Baxter Memorial Award

"Make no little plans.
They have no magic to
stir men's blood and
probably themselves will
not be realized.
Make big plans.
Aim high in hope and
work. Remembering that
a noble, logical diagram
once recorded
will not die."

Daniel H. Burnham

On Wednesday, June 4th, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and In Defense of Animals (IDA) presented AC&C with the prestigious **Virginia Baxter Memorial Award**. The Award recognizes AC&C for "having the vision, compassion and dedication to create model animal care and control programs in which thousands of homeless, unwanted and abandoned animals have found homes, medical care and new lives and for bringing education programs to the community that better the lives of animals and their human companions." ♦

Congratulations! AC&C deserves this award. We admire your purpose and drive for such a deserving, but often unrecognized, cause.

New York City
Center of Animal Care and Control
Board of Directors

Congratulations! I commend AC&C for winning this award and for the successful STAR program you created in an effort to be the first government run no-kill shelter. This a significant honor and accomplishment that undoubtedly required the dedication and cooperation of not only Maricopa County Animal Care & Control, but the whole community. I wish you continued success and thank you for your persistent dedication to the animal community.

Susan Wilson, Executive Director,
Humane Society of Southern Arizona

Rescuer's Poem

Now I lay me down to rest
I pray my soul can stand this test
Of watching critters lose their homes
While owners gripe and cry and moan
I long for strength of spirit and
I pray they'll find a home again
Where they will know a loving heart
I can't do much, but it's a start.....
And spare me from the owners please
About the baby's allergies
Or how they're moving out of state
Or spitefulness 'tween the cat and mate
Please keep me sane while dealing with
The woman who bought as a gift
A wriggling tiny ball of fluff
That now is playing way too rough

Remind me I should
bite my lip
When confronted with,
"he grew too quick"
"I didn't know he'd get
so large"
"He seems to think that he's in charge"
Protect my heart when I hear them say
"I think we'll breed our dog one day"
Sometimes I think it'll break in two
Each day brings trials harsh and new
And if I die before I wake
I pray my hopeful soul you'll take
My tears are gone, my faith is bare
Lord, please hear my rescue prayer.



~Author unknown~ ♦

People seldom do what
they believe in.
They do what is
convenient,
then repent.
~ Bob Dylan ~

Maddie's Project Update

by Erin Lopez, Executive Director,
The Alliance for Companion Animals



**AC&C is committed to
making Maddie happy...**

We reached the halfway point for Year One of the Maddie'ssm Pet Rescue Project in Maricopa County, and we have much to celebrate! Through a lot of hard work, our community has really pulled together to meet the shared goals of this collaboration: increase adoptions and decrease euthanasias.

Our project began in November of 2002, when eleven of the valley's animal welfare organizations, including Animal Care

& Control, made a joint commitment to make Maricopa County a no-kill community within five years. That is quite a task!

We are well on our way to achieving those goals, and AC&C has played a big role in that success. In the first five months of the project, AC&C reduced their euthanasias by 2,477 as compared to the first five months of the baseline year.

During that same time frame, 14,997 animals were adopted from shelters and rescue groups across Maricopa County compared to 13,945 in the baseline year. Of those adoptions 6,775 dogs and cats were adopted from AC&C.

Thank you very much to all the staff and volunteers that have contributed their time, love and energy on behalf of the animals. Thank you AC&C, and keep up the good work! ♦

Capital Campaign Update

By Sue Della Maddalena

FACCs publicly announced their goal to conduct a feasibility study for the renovation of AC&C's main shelter at 35th Avenue and Durango. The purpose of this article is to provide an update on those plans.

The FACCs Board had hoped to take advantage of a possible bond initiative in July of 2004. This would have generated the funds needed to rebuild Durango with property tax revenue.

Unfortunately, county officials have recently notified us that

there will be no bond initiative floated for voter approval in 2004.

However, there is strong interest on the part of the county to partner with FACCs to raise the capital funds required for the renovation. Members of the FACCs Board will meet with county officials in June to discuss this joint venture.

Assuming a decision is made to proceed, a feasibility study will be launched and the capital campaign will evolve from there.

Rebuilding Durango will provide a tremendous benefit to both the community and to local animal welfare groups.

The current facility is old, depressing and has disease containment issues. A new facility will not only enhance AC&C's ability to place more animals in adoptive homes, but also lighten the load on the no-kill shelters currently adopting animals from the county.

With a new AC&C shelter and the continued support of the



New Hope partners, it is realistic to believe that we could achieve the "no-kill community" status that we all desire. Wouldn't that be wonderful, particularly for the animals of our community?

We will continue to provide you with periodic updates on this very important initiative as we move forward. ♦

2004 FACCs Calendar Contest

It's not too early to enter your dog or cat in the **2004 Desert Dogs and Cool Cats calendar contest!** Simply complete the form below and return it with a photo of your pet and an entry fee of \$15.00. All entries will be judged by a professional panel, and the most compelling will be selected to be "Featured Pets". All pets submitted will appear in the calendar - those photos not selected for "Featured Pets" will be included

in the "Furry Friends Collage."

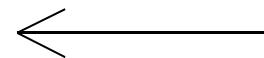
All photos must be horizontal in layout, no bigger than 4"x6" and contain only animals (no people). Only color photo prints will be accepted - Polaroid, disk/CD or computer generated photos printed on paper will be excluded. For quality photo reproduction, please do not stamp or write on the back of the photos. Photos will not be returned and must be received by

July 31, 2003. Featured Pets winners will be notified by mail in August. The Desert Dogs and Cool Cats calendar will be available in October of 2003.

All proceeds of the calendars will benefit the adoption and spay/neuter programs of Maricopa County Animal Care & Control. Thank you very much for your support in helping us end needless euthanasia in our community! ♦



*Fill out this
form and send
it in today!*



Enclosed are _____ pictures @ \$15.00 each for the 2004 calendar, total _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone(Home): _____ Phone (Work) _____

Pet's Name(s): _____ Email: _____

☐ I am enclosing a check for _____ or ☐ Please charge my VISA/Mastercard (please circle one)

☐ Enclosed is an extra voluntary donation of \$_____

Account: _____ Expiration Date: _____

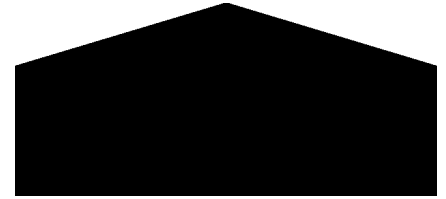
Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to: FACCs - Friends of Animal Care & Control
Send To: P.O. Box 80739, Phoenix, Arizona 85060-0739

FACCs is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care & Control. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.



Phone: 602-506-2772
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*We create happiness by bringing
pets and people together!*



2323 South 35th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009

**Maricopa County
Animal Care & Control**

**Adopt this cat now
or do you know
what will happen?
someone else will.**



Adopt a pet from Animal Care & Control today!
602-506-PETS

www.pets.maricopa.gov

How Long Do You Hold The Animals?

This is the most common question asked by the public when they come to visit our Animal Care Centers. The answer is "As long as we have space."

AC&C rescues 150 to 200 lost and homeless pets each day. To have space for the daily newcomers, the ones currently in our care must find a new home.

Everyday we hope for the best for all of the animals in our care, but despite our best efforts difficult decisions must be made.

It is now summer and it is becoming more busy every day. These homeless pets are the responsibility of our entire community. It is up to all of us to do what we can to make sure these animals find new homes. Please adopt a pet this summer! Thanks,

Elizabeth Clark ♦